

Site M:26/10/20

Bessie Lyddane House

14 South Adams Street

Built: 1889

Private/Restricted Access

This Queen Anne/Eastlake cottage is believed to have been designed by master-builder Edwin M. West. Its corner turret with imbricated pattern shingling and conical wood shingled roof, its jigsawn and bracketed porch and the use of a "Rockville Bay" are duplicates of architectural elements West used in other buildings in Rockville. Now used as a law office, it is nearly original in appearance.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. 7m:26/10/20

Magi No. 1650362611

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Bessie Lyddane house

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 14 South Adams Street not for publicationcity, town Rockville vicinity of congressional district 8state Maryland county Montgomery

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Robert A. Jacques & Douglas Taylorstreet & number 14 South Adams Street telephone no.: 762-7272city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Land Records liber 4012street & number Montgomery County Courthouse folio 243city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title National Register - West Montgomery Avenue Historic District - 1974
Locally designated historic district - 1974date M-NCPPC - 1976 ☒ federal ☒ state ☒ county ☒ localdepository for survey records City of Rockvillecity, town Rockville state Maryland 20850

7. Description

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Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This 2½ story Queen Anne style Victorian is situated on the corner of Jefferson and South Adams Streets, facing west. The roughly square 3 bay by 2 bay frame house has a hipped main block section, with an intersecting rear cross gable; both are covered by black asphalt shingle. Resting on a rubblestone foundation and sheathed in aluminum siding, the house features a two-story southwest corner tower with a steep conical roof.

The round corner tower rests on a three-bay square base which projects outward at a 45° angle. The fish-scale shingled second floor is topped by a cedar-shingled conical roof. The west (front) facade has a full-width shed-roofed porch with turned posts and decorative brackets. A wood and glass paneled door is positioned in the north-west bay, and paired, one-over-one windows are located in the center bay of both floors.

The south facade adjoins the corner tower and features a 2½ story gable end bay at the southeast corner. Fish-scale shingles surround the square attic window. There are two 2-over-2 second floor windows, and on the first level is the mitred "Rockville bay" with decorative dropped pendants and curved brackets.

Most windows throughout the house are two-over-two double hung wood sash with louevered shutters. Both the west and the south facades abut a concrete sidewalk.

The north facade repeats the fish-scale attic shingles at the opposite end of the gable. A diamond-shaped window lights the stairs. The east (rear) facade has a brick chimney, a box-like central two story projection, and a one-story shed-roofed enclosure on brick piers.

Moderately scaled in its proportions, 14 South Adams is composed of several architectural features which enjoyed great popularity in Rockville in the late 19th century. These features often were employed on homes of a slightly larger scale, but they have been adapted successfully in this cottage, which is now used for law offices.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1889-90 Builder/Architect Builder: R.A. Clagett
 check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Presumed architect: E. M. West
 and/or
 Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
 Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This 1889 turreted cottage is highly visible at the corner of Jefferson Street and South Adams. It was built for Bessie Lyddane by her parents, Judge Stephen Lyddane and his wife Sarah Braddock. The Braddock/Lyddane families owned the east side of this block for 100 years, and played important roles in the commercial, political and judicial history of the Town.

Stephen M. Lyddane, Judge of the Orphan's Court and five term County Commissioner, died in September, 1889.¹ At the time of his death, Judge Lyddane was in the process of building a new store and two dwellings, and the records of payments owed to the contractors for lumber, bricks and plumbing work are listed in his estate accounts. One of the houses under construction was #14 South Adams. Judge Lyddane left a widow and four daughters, all of whom were married except 25 year old Bessie. Two months before his death Judge Lyddane and his wife Sarah Hilton Braddock Lyddane deeded this lot (#69 of the original Town of Rockville) to Bessie "for love and affection".²

The building contractor for the house is listed as R. A. Clagett; however the statement of accounts also lists payments owing to two other builders in Rockville, "Mr. West - \$130 for building" and "J. O. Isanogle - \$200".³ The record does not detail what work these builders were doing, but it is believed (based on a comparison of this house with Mr. West's other known works) that Edwin M. West may have supplied the plans and/or other work on the house. A examination of details of Mr. West's own house, then being constructed at 114 West Montgomery Avenue, shows marked similarities, particularly in the use of the "Rockville Bay" with its curved brackets and dropped pendant detailing; in the design, dimensions and shape of the cylindrical turret with cedar shake roof; and in the placement of the fish-scale shingling on the turret and gable ends. Mr. West also supplied lumber for gates at \$12.70.

Bessie Lyddane never lived in this house, but made her home with her mother at the northern end of the same block (fronting on Commerce Lane, now W. Montgomery Avenue), later she lived with the family of her sister, Mrs. Stephen Quigley.

#8 CONTINUATION P. 8.1

Mrs. Lyddane, known as Sally, was the daughter of William Braddock, and had been born on this block; her father had owned parts of lots 69-73 since 1819.⁴ In 1828 the Maryland Journal and True American reported that "William Braddock opened a new grocery and feed store adjoining his home". In 1831 the paper advertised that Elizabeth Braddock was operating an ordinary. Sally Braddock married Stephen M. Lyddane in 1843 just a few years before her father's death. In 1849 while Stephen was serving his first term as County Commissioner, the Braddock heirs advertised "Sale-- William Braddock Store, at the old stand on Quality Hill". The store was owned by a succession of merchants, including those intermarried with the Braddock girls, until the Lyddane ownership in 1873.⁵

The 1878 Hopkins Atlas shows lots 69-73 with a tenant house and stable on the southwest corner of the block at the future site of #14. On the northwest corner lots of the block are the stores, shops, dwelling houses and stables of the Braddock/Lyddane families. These lots were then and are now commercial. The new store that Judge Lyddane was building in 1889 was later sold to Willis Burdette in 1911; it is now the site of the Dixie Pig Barbeque.

The Tax Assessment for 1910 valued #14 South Adams at \$200 plus \$1,200 worth of improvements. Sally Lyddane died in 1911 at age 84, and in 1919 Bessie sold her house to Frank Karn.⁶ The Karn family owned the property until 1956, and rented it to tenants during most of that period. Between 1956 and 1970 the house was owned successively by Herbert Wright and Lawrence Widemayer. Mr. Widemayer did the initial interior alteration and adaption of the house to serve as his law office. In 1970 Robert Jacques and Douglas Taylor bought the property, and did further work on the house. In 1976 the house was sheathed with narrow aluminum, corresponding to the narrow "German" frame siding underneath; the 19th century bracketing, turned pendants, lattice work, shingling and window treatments were retained. Mr. Jacques served in the Maryland House of Delegates from 1974 to 1978; he and Mr. Taylor currently occupy the building as their law office.

1. Lyddane/Braddock family information is taken from several sources and genealogies, including Portrait and Biographic Record of the Sixth Congressional District: Chapman Publishing (1898) p. 571.
2. Land Records, JA 15/50 (July 9, 1889).
3. Stephen M. Lyddane Estate, Wills - Book RWC 15/249 and Inventory of Accounts RWC 19/254. T. C. Groomes was building the store and dwelling on lot 73. R. A. Clagett was building two houses for \$973 and \$1,132. The payment owing the "Plumber for lower house" at \$13.17 is presumed to be for #14.
4. 1831 Tax Records for William Braddock, in which he owns 3/4 acre. In 1841 lots 69-71 were unimproved. Also, Judgment Record J.L.B. 11/329.
5. In 1890 Mrs. Lyddane purchased the M. Green house, fronting on Commerce Street, but this building lay further east of the old Braddock store/dwelling. Attached is a plat of 1911 sale of her estate; note that names used for streets are those used prior to 1803 plat of City. Judgment Record 8/410 (1890) and Judgment Record J.L.B. 11/321 (1911) review the histories of these properties.
6. Land Records 292/375 (1919).

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Montgomery County Land, Tax, Equity, Plat & Census Records
General histories, including Scharf; Portrait & Biographical Record
Genealogies & newspapers

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 4863 square feet

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 69, original Town of Rockville; 49' fronting on South Adams by
depth of 101' on north side of Jefferson Street

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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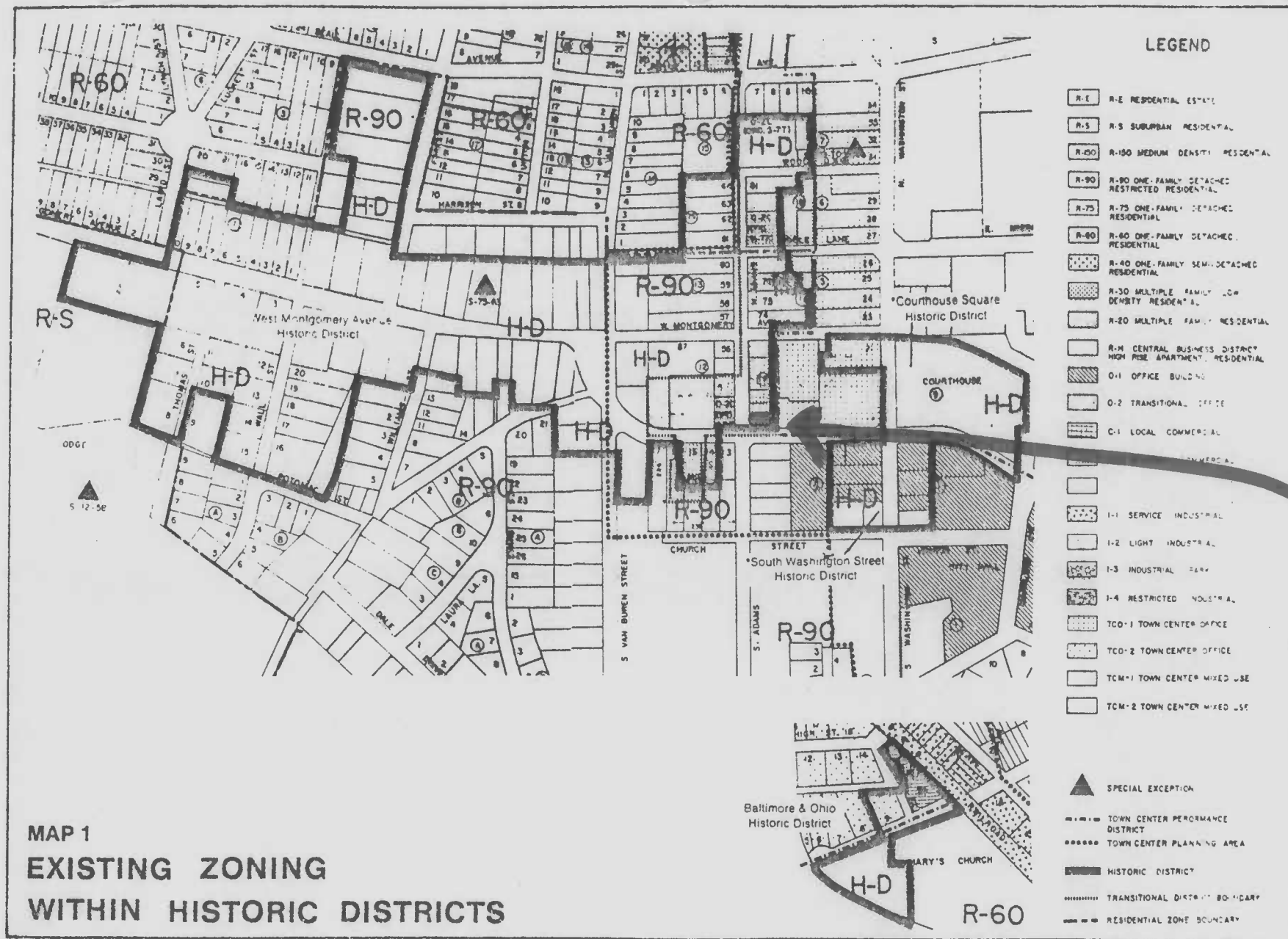
11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne W. Cissel/Glen Leiner, architectural descriptionorganization Peerless Rockville date September 1984street & number P.O. Box 4262 telephone 762-0096city or town Rockville state Maryland 20850

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by
an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated
Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and
record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of
individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438



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 14 South Adams Street
 Rockville

*Note: For discussion and planning purposes South Washington Street and the Courthouse Square district are considered independent Historic Districts even though they are shown on the existing zoning map as one district.



1024-3

RICHARD H. ANDREWS
1608 Farragut Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20851

M: 26/10/20
BESSIE LYDDANES

14 So. Adams
WEST / SOUTHWEST ELEVATION
AUGUST, 1984